

# Planning Section

Planning Section became a separately designated administrative section as part of Department reorganization in 1964, with Edwin H. Glaser as its chief. Its roots, however, extend back to 1946, when the Department found it necessary to establish liaison with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to safeguard the state's fish and game interests in river basin planning and developments. This was during the era of big dam construction, when it seemed most of Missouri's free flowing streams were candidates for major alterations. The assignment was first located within the Fish and Game Division, later on the director's staff, and was ably filled by Carl R. Noren for many years.

Personnel strength in 1964 consisted of two-Glaser and Noren-with secretarial assistance provided as needed. Today the staff numbers eleven, headed by Dan F. Dickneite since 1984. Although it is called the Planning Section, the title does not adequately convey the scope of its work, which is divided between section administration, the planning branch and the environmental branch. Added responsibilities are social research, federal aid administration, land acquisition coordination, wildlife economics and policy research.

The original assignment was broadened to include liaison with other agencies and groups in the field of outdoor recreation or natural resource projects and planning. A unique assignment in 1964 came about when Director William E. Towell was designated by Governor Warren E. Hearnes as state liaison officer to the U. S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, with instructions to develop a plan to initially qualify Missouri for federal matching Land and Water Conservation Fund grants. The outcome was *Outdoor Recreation in Missouri-Preliminary Plan 1965*, which made Missouri eligible for the federal funds and became the basis for continuing accelerated activity in the outdoor recreation field.

The last forty years have seen a tremendous growth in the number of groups involved



*Carl Noren was appointed to head up a Planning unit first located within Fish and Game Division. Fish and game habitats, including wetland areas for waterfowl, needed protection during the era of big dam building by the Army Corps of Engineers.*

in outdoor recreation or natural resource projects-federal, state, and private-and in the variety and scope of their activities. For example, a recent tally revealed the Planning Section working with or through some fourteen federal agencies, plus Missouri's congressional representatives, four state departments, the governor and other elected officials, similar agencies in seven adjacent states, and fif-



*Planning Section was established as a separate entity in 1964 with Edwin H. Glaser as its chief, above.*

teen private organizations involved in resource use, conservation or management. All of these affect the Department's resource responsibilities in one way or another. It is the Planning Section's charge to keep abreast of all these possibilities through its primary function of coordination and liaison. It operates with limited professional staff by calling upon staff and specialists throughout the Department for assistance, data and advice.

Much of the resource planning concerned with water policy-legislation, impoundments, stream and river basin studies-is within the environmental branch. The underlying philosophy is to participate in as many plans, studies and programs concerned with water and related land resources as possible, so as to best represent the fish, forest and wildlife interests of the state. Both the water and land base are critical in shaping successful Department programs and in maintaining a quality

*Environmental Coordinator Joe Bachant, below, and other Planning staffers gather data, develop priorities and act as liaisons with other agencies in land and water issues.*



environment in Missouri.

There are no particular ties to any Department division or point of view: the section serves as a focal point for gathering information and developing a position or policy agreeable to all, and to represent the Department's views at meetings and public hearings.

The planning branch was established in 1977, following passage of the conservation sales tax amendment. Responsibilities of the unit include long-range planning, coordination of land acquisition and capital improvements, and program evaluation based on socio-economic research. Knowing what people believe, perceive and desire is critical to Department programming.

Planning Section assumed responsibility for federal aid coordination in 1984. Federal Aid had formerly operated as a separate unit

without total responsibility for all Department federal aid, which includes forestry as well as fish and wildlife. This function includes documentation, bookkeeping, vouchering and audit responsibility for \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000 in federal grants each year, and is administered through the environmental services officer.

The results of the Planning Section's work cannot be satisfactorily measured in terms of units of fish, wildlife or forests. The effect is reflected, rather, throughout the programs of the entire Department, in better resource management and in the enhancement and coordination of programs with other agencies to secure the best possible stewardship of fish, wildlife, forests, and the lands and waters that support them.



*The best possible stewardship of fish, wildlife and forests means effective planning. The duties of Planning Section include long-range forecasting of public needs regarding land and water resources, coordinating land acquisition and development, and evaluating existing programs based on socio-economic research. The results are public lands and programs designed for conservation and effective public service.*